

Lafayette united methodist church*A church with a heart for the community***955 MORAGA ROAD, LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA 94549
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April 29, 1983

Lt. General Lincoln D. Faurer
Director, National Security Agency
Washington, D. C. 205 -

Dear General Faurer:

I was deeply disturbed to read of the recent action by the National Security Agency in ordering the George C. Marshall Research Library in Lexington, VA, to halt public access to certain materials.

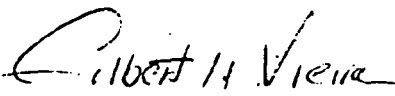
The claim that this agency has the authority to do this conflicts with deeply founded American traditions protecting the freedom of the private sector. These traditions, it is evident to me, are being increasingly violated by the current administration's dangerous preoccupation with Soviet power. One would not want to over-react, but certainly there is a hint in the action of your agency of exactly the kind of abusive exercise of governmental authority which we typically condemn in the Communist system.

If step by step in confronting the Soviet threat we employ its methods, then, regardless of our military might, we will be succumbing to that very threat by losing the liberty which distinguishes our nation from Russia.

The National Security Agency has, in effect, made a deliberate incursion on a private institution, re-classifying materials which previously were available to the public. This sets a trend which can only ultimately threaten the very foundations of our society if allowed to continue and expand.

As a citizen who strongly supports an open society and a government constrained by constitutional safeguards, I vigorously protest this action.

Sincerely,


Gilbert H. Vieira

copies: The President
Alan Cranston
Pete Wilson